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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|--|-------------|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 10/550,397 | 09/22/2005 | Takashi Hosoya | 740819-1126 | 2304 |
| 22204 | 7590 | 10/03/2007 | | |
| NIXON PEABODY, LLP 401 9TH STREET, NW SUITE 900 WASHINGTON, DC 20004-2128 | | | EXAMINER SANTOS, ROBERT G | |
| | | | ART UNIT 3673 | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | | MAIL DATE 10/03/2007 | DELIVERY MODE PAPER |

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. 10/550,397 | Applicant(s) HOSOYA ET AL. | |
| | Examiner Robert G. Santos | Art Unit 3673 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 September 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION***Election/Restrictions***

1. This application contains claims directed to more than one species of the generic invention. These species are deemed to lack unity of invention because they are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

The species are as follows:

| | |
|------------|-----------------|
| SPECIES 1 | FIGURES 1-6 |
| SPECIES 2 | FIGURES 7 & 8 |
| SPECIES 3 | FIGURE 9 |
| SPECIES 4 | FIGURE 10 |
| SPECIES 5 | FIGURES 11 & 12 |
| SPECIES 6 | FIGURE 13 |
| SPECIES 7 | FIGURE 14 |
| SPECIES 8 | FIGURE 15 |
| SPECIES 9 | FIGURE 16 |
| SPECIES 10 | FIGURES 17 & 18 |
| SPECIES 11 | FIGURES 19-21 |
| SPECIES 12 | FIGURES 22-31. |

Applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single species to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. The reply must also identify the claims readable on the elected species, including any claims subsequently added. An

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argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered non-responsive unless accompanied by an election.

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. MPEP § 809.02(a).

2. The claims are deemed to correspond to the species listed above in the following manner: Claims 1-9 and 11 are deemed to correspond to Species 1; claims 1-11 are deemed to correspond to Species 2; claims 1, 2 and 8-10 are deemed to correspond to Species 3; claims 1, 2 and 8-10 are deemed to correspond to Species 4; claims 1-9, 11-14 and 18-20 are deemed to correspond to Species 5; claims 1-9, 11-14 and 18-20 are deemed to correspond to Species 6; claims 1, 2, 8, 9, 12, 15, 18 and 19 are deemed to correspond to Species 7; claims 1, 2, 8, 9, 12, 18 and 19 are deemed to correspond to Species 8; claims 1, 2, 8, 9, 12, 16, 18 and 19 are deemed to correspond to Species 9; claims 1, 2, 8, 9, 12 and 17-19 are deemed to correspond to Species 10; claims 1-14 and 18-20 are deemed to correspond to Species 11; and claims 1-9, 11 and 21-27 are deemed to correspond to Species 12.

The following claim(s) are generic: 1, 2, 8 and 9.

3. The species listed above do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, the species lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: Species 1 lacks the special technical feature of the deactivation device of Species 2; Species 3 contains the unique technical feature of an oil-hydraulic ascent assist device as opposed to a pneumatic ascent assist device; Species 4 contains the unique technical feature of a motor-driven ascent assist device; Species 5 contains the unique technical feature of an initial ascent assist device for giving an ascending force from the lowest level of the bed to a predetermined halfway level between the lowest and highest levels of the bed; Species 6 contains the unique technical feature of the initial ascent assist device comprising pneumatic cylinders with a built-in manual pump; Species 7 contains the unique technical feature of the initial ascent assist device comprising hydraulic cylinders with a built-in manual pump; Species 8 contains the unique technical feature of the initial ascent assist device comprising oil-hydraulic cylinders; Species 9 contains the unique technical feature of the initial ascent assist device comprising motor-driven actuators; Species 10 contains the unique technical feature of

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the initial ascent assist device comprising a treadle lever and link mechanism; Species 11 contains the unique technical feature of the deactivation device in combination with initial and main ascent assist devices; and Species 12 contains the unique technical feature of a vibration isolation support platform.

4. A telephone call was made to Donald R. Studebaker on September 25, 2007 to request an oral election to the above restriction requirement, but did not result in an election being made.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include (i) an election of a species or invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143) and (ii) identification of the claims encompassing the elected invention.

The election of an invention or species may be made with or without traverse. To reserve a right to petition, the election must be made with traverse. If the reply does not distinctly and specifically point out supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election shall be treated as an election without traverse.

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the inventions or species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the inventions or species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C.103(a) of the other invention.

5. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the


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application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Robert G. Santos whose telephone number is (571) 272-7048. The examiner can normally be reached on Tues-Fr and first Mondays, 10:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patricia L. Engle can be reached on (571) 272-6660. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Robert G. Santos
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3673

R.S.
September 25, 2007